

I am deeply concerned about the impact of communications towers, such as those that support TV and radio stations and cell phone service, are having on migratory birds. Many songbirds migrate at night, and are killed after colliding with these towers. Although studies suggest that tower height, placement, lighting and the presence and placement of guy wires may influence mortality levels, a great deal remains unknown about the impact of tower strikes on each bird species.

I respectfully request that the FCC: (1) begin a systematic review of communication tower and bird mortality issues; (2) institute a research program to identify tower placement, design and lighting conditions that result in bird mortality; (3) conduct environmental reviews of all existing towers to assess their placement and design with regard to migratory bird impacts; (4) require that all proposed towers be subjected to rigorous environmental reviews; and (5) implement immediate protections based on existing knowledge, such as the voluntary tower siting and placement guidelines developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.